

SUNDERLAND SELECTBOARD MINUTES

Place: Sunderland Town Offices, 12 School Street

March 20, 2023

Attending: T. Fydenkevez, C. Drake-Tremblay, N. Waring, G. Kravitz

Others: C. Bennett, G. Gottschalk, P. Gagarin, J. Corwin, L. Starr

Meeting Hybrid and In-person with portions recorded by FCAT

Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM

MINUTES

Ms. Drake-Tremblay motion to accept MINUTES of 03/13/2023, Mr. Waring second, vote 3-0.

BUSINESS

- Appointment of BILL ERMAN AS PERMANENT INSPECTOR OF WIRES through the current appointment year ending 06/30/2023. Ms. Drake-Tremblay motion to appoint Bill Erman as Inspector of Wires, Mr. Waring second, vote 3-0.

OLD BUSINESS

- Update: Elementary School OIL TANK ENGINEERING. Bid was received for \$29,800 to do engineering, construction administration and bidding. The superintendent is seeking more information before requesting final funding value.
- CAPITAL STABILIZATION OVERRIDE: \$275,000 Override is being recommended by the Capital Planning Committee which would increase the tax rate by 53¢ per \$1,000; bringing the tax rate from \$12.80 to \$13.33. For an average house costing \$345,000, would cost around \$175/year. Permanent Building Committee has a 10-year plan and this would be the first step in addressing the town's list of capital needs. It was noted that some towns use Chapter 90 funds for various items, such as capital but Sunderland has always used Chapter 90 for road work funding and not for capital items. The board will need to finalize the wording for the OVERRIDE BALLOT QUESTION with the Town Clerk's assistance.
- BUDGET DISCUSSION: Error realized in interpreting the numbers from Assessors which results in a budget deficit from the initial amount discussed. The current budget presented includes the expanded budget requests. The town does not have values for the local receipts, free cash and health insurance plan costs at this time which will also affect the bottom line. To close the gap with current figures, we would need to remove expanded budget requests to include new positions. No free cash used in the budget at this time. 2.5% COLA is included. Mr. Fydenkevez commented that it is good for the School Committee members to attend so they hear the town situations and where recommendations need to be in order to finalize the budget.

SELECTBOARD UPDATES

- Mr. Waring reports having a Capital Planning Committee meeting last week. He also congratulated Frontier Regional Theatre Dept. on their production of Chicago which was presented over the weekend noting it was a great performance and great jobs by students.
- Mr. Drake-Tremblay attended Village Center Committee meeting last week and noted they are working on bid documents for visioning.
- Mr. Fydenkevez and Mr. Kravitz did a site visit for SENIOR CENTER space at the Congregational Church in Deerfield with reps from Deerfield and Whately. Deerfield has some grants and would like to utilize a portion for renovating the space for temporary Senior Center activities over the next five years. An assessment study needs to be done and agreement by all three towns. If the matter proceeds, work could begin in the fall.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES

- Request if the Board would waive the TAG SALE PERMIT FEE for the WOMAN'S CLUB TAG SALE requested at last meeting. Ms. Drake-Tremblay motion to waive the Tag Sale Permit Fee for the Woman's Club event on 05/20/2023 at the Riverside Park, Mr. Waring second, vote 3-0.
- Water Commissioner, Fed Laurenitis noted the OLD FIRE STATION was in need of NEW HEATING and requests permission to proceed with installing mini-splits as needed at the Water District's expense. The board supported their request and expense is part of the Water District rental agreement.
- Reminder to anyone who has not completed their DEPARTMENT OR COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2022 to please forward to the office as soon as possible so the report can be finalized before town meeting.
- Mr. Fydenkevez took opportunity to thank GREG GOTTSCHALK for his service on the SUNDERLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COMMITTEE. His service to our community has been greatly appreciated.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Pursuant to MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21 (a) paragraph 3: *to discuss litigation strategy in the case of Shiun-Fen Lou v. Town, Greenfield District Court, C.A. No. 2241CV000133, if discussing the matter in open session will have a detrimental effect on the Town's litigating position and the chair so declares.*

Mr. Kravitz conducted Roll-Call Vote: Mr. Waring – aye; Ms. Drake-Tremblay-aye; Mr. Fydenkevez-aye to enter EXECUTIVE SESSION vote 3-0 at 7:06PM. The Board may return to open session to entertain an open-session vote if so decided during the Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT: the Board returned to open session only to adjourn. Ms. Drake-Tremblay motion, Mr. Waring second, vote 3-0 to adjourn at 8:02PM.

Next Selectboard meeting is scheduled for March 27, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,



Geoff Kravitz,
Town Administrator